

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Official Action dated February 13, 2007 for the above identified patent application.

The Examiner's indication at page 3, paragraph 4 of the Official Action, that Claims 1 - 20 are directed to allowable subject matter, is gratefully acknowledged by Applicant.

At page 2, paragraph 1 of the Official Action, the Examiner has requested that an Abstract on a separate sheet be added to the patent application.

The present application is the United States National Phase of International Patent Appl. No. PCT/DE04/000922. The present application has been amended to include an Abstract of the Disclosure, corresponding to the Abstract appearing on the cover sheet of the corresponding PCT application.

At page 2, paragraph 3 of the Official Action, Claims 1 - 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The basis for the formal grounds of rejection are discussed in the Official Action.

Applicant has revised the form of the claims to overcome the formal grounds of rejection raised in the Official Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the form of the claims currently pending in the present application complies with 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, in all respects.

With regard to the recitation "the width" in Claims 3 and 18, Applicant respectfully submits that there is inherent antecedent basis for the recitation of "the width" of the retaining webs in these claims. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, 8th Edition, Rev. 5, August, 2006, Sec. 2173.05(e).

With regard to the recitation of "the longitudinal direction of the lock" in Claims 6 and 16, Applicant respectfully submits that express antecedent basis for this recitation is now provided in parent independent Claim 1, as amended herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the revisions to the form of the claims herein overcome the formal grounds of rejection raised in the Official Action, and respectfully requests that the formal grounds of rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn in view of the amended claims.

* * *

No prior art rejections were raised against any of the claims. As noted above, page 3, paragraph 4 of the Official Action, indicates that Claims 1 - 20 will be allowed after the formal grounds of rejection have been overcome.

The cover sheet of the Official Action fails to acknowledge Applicant's claim for priority from the corresponding German patent application, and that the priority document has been received from the International Bureau. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent & Trademark Office acknowledge both the claim for priority, and the receipt of the copy of the priority document, to perfect the claim for priority.

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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